Agricultural Credits – 1929

STORM RELIEF FOR SOUTHERN FARMERS

The joint resolution passed by Congress appropriating $6,000,000 for loans to farmers n Virginia, North Carolint, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama has been signed by the President and is now effective for use.

. . Loans to cotton planters are limited to $8 per acre and no farmer will be permitted to borrow more han $2,000.

The storms and floods of last August were disastrous **to the cotton belt farmers and this . appropriation . to be** used as loan will prove a god send to those who are fortunate enough to share its benefits.

Among the many thousands who lost all or almost all of their crops are several thousands of colored farmers whose loses entailed certainly as great suffering as any other class of farmers and who it is to be hoped will be able to secure loans with which to start their crops with equal facility as other farmers.

There are nearly a million Negro farmers and their prosperity swells the general prosperity of the country no less than other farmers.

Negro farmers in the States to benefit by the governments generous loans should be alert and make inquiry at once concerning the loans and avail themselves if they need it of the government aid.

C. Leader
March 9, 1929

SIX MILLIONS FOR FARMERS

The 70th Congress just ended Monday appropriated six millions of dollars to be used as loans to the farmers of the cotton belt who suffered from the storm of last August. The headquarters for the lending of this money will be situated in Columbia, S. C Already quarters have been secured and the official who will have charge of this business is getting the machinery in order that the farmers may without much delay receive the benefit of this money. The cotton planters, by the terms of the law, are limited to a loan of $8:00 per acre and no one can secure a loan in excess of $2,000.

We hope that colored farmers entitled to a loan from this fund will be given a fair and square deal. There has always been much talk about Negroes and farming. That he is pecularly fitted for this calling and so on. But when it comes to giving him real assistance, action does not comport with the talk. Maybe, already too many Negroes have deserted the farm. The way, however, to keep them there is not to discriminate against them in their need when there is help in sight. Th Negro farmer of the cotton belt has been hard hit by the storm just as was the white farmer and his need should be as fully considered and aid extended.

The colored farmers should be alert, and make application for loans where there is a real need. The prosperity of the southern states depends as much on the prosperity of the colored farmers as it does on the prosperity of the whites. The distribution of this fund by way of loans should be a straight forward business proposition, devoid of prejudice and mere sentiment.

"ORGANIZE TO HARMONIZE"

Courier Pittsburgh Pa 3/29

NOTE:—
ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND NEGRO FARMERS IN AMERICA— SMALLER PER CENTAGE ORGANIZED
WAKE UP CHILLUN' WAKE UP
WHITE FARM ORGANIZATIONS
CONGRESS
$500,000,000 REVOLVING FUND FOR ORGANIZED AMERIAN FARMERS
HOLLOWAY

Mississippi Cotton Growers Spurn U. S. Farm Board Aid

Co-operative Officers Reveal Loans From Intermediate Credit Banks, and Private Sources Care for Members Until Crop Is Marketed.

BY JOHN D. ERWIN.
Commercial Appeal Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21.—Unlike the 40 other organizations which have appeared before or petitioned the federal farm board, representatives of the Mississippi Staple Cotton Co-operative Association appeared today with an announcement that they do not wish any financial assistance.

Thereupon the long staple cotton growers' spokesmen were invited by the board to an all-day conference to learn why they do not need a loan when virtually every co-operative in the country is loudly shouting for money.

The officers of this co-operative told the members of the board that they are able to borrow from the intermediate credit banks and from private sources all the money needed to carry over their members until the complete sale of their cotton.

Organized in 1921.

This is done through an agency known as the Staple Cotton Discount Corporation, which was organized under the rural credits act of 1923, and is affiliated with and controlled by the Staple Cotton Co-operative.

This co-operative was formed in 1921 to market the staple cotton crop of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, which comprises about 4,000,000 acres. Cotton of the long staple variety is the principal crop on this delta, bringing in upwards of 95 per cent of the total income of a delta plantation owner.

The co-operative, which has no connection with the American Cotton Exchange, which has the promise of the farm board for unlimited credit on a 25 per cent pre-sale basis, handles about one-third of the Mississippi staple cotton crop.

Government Interested.

So successful has this organization been in bringing co-operative marketing, the Agriculture Department several years studied its method and made it the subject of special publication.

These facts were brought out during the conference with the farm board today. In general the officers of the Mississippi co-operative explained to the farm board members how they worked and achieved their success.

The board in soliciting such information desires it for the formation of ideas in promulgating a policy for the development of co-operative marketing organizations for all crops throughout the country.

Among the officers of the Mississippi co-operative who attended the meeting were O. F. Bledsoe, president; W. M. Garrard, general manager; A. H. Stone, vice president and J. B. Hinton, secretary and treasurer.

UNION
MANCHESTER, N. H.

JUN 24 1929

CANVASSING FARM BOARD CANDIDATES.

The task of selecting the members of the Farm Board takes rank, naturally enough, as one of the big jobs for the administration. Not only have five hundred names been submitted to the President, most of them being urgently pressed upon his attention, so that the canvass has to cover a wide field, but also there are many considerations of sectional representation to be borne in mind. It is desired to have the board appointed and in operation with a minimum of delay. Over the week-end the President and Secretary of Agriculture Hyde have been combining study of candidates with a fishing trip, and the hope is expressed that the appointments may be made in a week or ten days.

An important decision said to have been reached is to have at least one "strong business man or banker" included in the membership. In view of the great amount of funds to be handled by the board this seems to be a very reasonable proposal. It has the support of many farm organizations and leaders. About two hundred and fifty inquiries sent out by Secretary Hyde brought a hundred replies, the great majority of which favored the idea. This endorsement, it is added, represents sentiment in all parts of the country.

As was to have been expected, the suggestions made by correspondents of the President and visitors to the White House have had a broad range. Besides the recommendations of candidates and presentation of state or regional claims, there have been a number dealing with recognition of groups of the population. For instance, Professor Kelley Miller of Howard University has asked that a negro be appointed to the board, arguing that the farm offered the colored race "by far the best chance amidst the fierce industrial rivalry," and making note als of the large number of negro farmers in th country. The suggestion is calculated to stir th more interest because of the flurry over the D Priest incident and the state of mind into whic some of the southerners have worked themselve

Arrangements have been made to assign th board temporary quarters in the agricultural D partment building, but no doubt is felt that th volume of its business will soon require large accommodations. The board has an appropri tion of $1,500,000 for administrative purposes, that it ought not to be cramped for funds for running expenses.

While predictions as to the personnel of t board are little more than guesswork, confiden is general that the President's selections w command public approval. That was the rea tion to his choice of members of his Law E forcement Commission, and there is no reason doubt that equal care and judgment will be d played in making up the highly important Far Board.

FARM AID FOR SOUTH STUDIED BY CONGRES

Larsen Asks $50,000,00 Loan Fund for South-Eastern Farmers.

BY GLADSTONE WILLIAMS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(Special.)—Encouraged by the result achieved under the $6,000,000 fund which Congress authorized last year for use of farmers of the Southeastern states in financing purchases of seed and fertilizers, Representative W. W. Larsen, of Georgia, today laid before the lower house a more comprehensive bill on the same subject, providing for a similar fund of $50,000,000 which would be available to farmers throughout the country.

The measure, in short, is an elaboration of the temporary relief legislation, which congress extended to farmers of Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina after earlier flood conditions. Representative Larsen, who is a member of the house agricultural committee, in offering the bill explained that benefits under the temporary measure proved so great to farmers of the southeastern section that he felt there was a need to make the program more extensive, offering the same facilities to farmers of all the states.

While the house was receiving the Larsen bill, the senate agricultural committee voted to issue a favorable report on the resolution by Senator Ellison D. Smith, of South Carolina, providing for a limited continuation of the relief previously granted farmers of the southeastern states. Under the terms of the resolution a loan fund of $2,000,000 would be made available to farmers of Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas for financing spring crop operations who can show that they suffered material damage from recent storm conditions.

Senator Walter F. George, of Georgia, assisted the Carolina senator in preparing the resolution and appeared before the agricultural committee today to urge its favorable consideration. Several other bills of similar scope have been introduced in both houses by members from the states affected.

The bill by Representative Larsen differs in its administration provisions from the original $6,000,000 southeastern fund in that the proposed $50,000,000 would be made available from the revolving fund already set up for operations of the federal farm board. Officials of the board would be directed to make loans to farm organizations for purchase of seed, fertilizer, feed and fuel under such terms as the board may require. A special appropriation was approved in setting up the original fund, which was administered by the department of agriculture.

While the $50,000,000 fund is proposed as a relief measure for 1930 crop operations, the Georgia congressman indicated that he would ask for its continuance as a permanent policy of the government if it is approved by congress.

One or two of the members of the Federal Farm Board have made explicit statements to the effect that the marketing act will be administered with absolute fairness in so far as the racial identification of the farmer goes. Certainly we cannot be so uncharitable as to charge the board with discrimination even before our farmers have met the plain requirements of the law, that loans will be made only through cooperatives.

In every community, it is possibly true, that Negro farmers will find it not difficult to affliate with the white associations if they will put forth the effort. And that they should put forth effort hardly needs to be emphasized

Race Farmers And Cooperatives

INASMUCH as it is very definitely understood that the only farmers who are members of growers' cooperative associations have a chance to benefit by the Federal marketing act which provides assistance to agriculture through the operation of the Federal Farm Board, no argument should be necessary to convince the farmers of our group that they should speedily as possible affiliate with exiting cooperatives or form reputable cooperatives of their own.

It seems, however, that in communities where functioning growers' associations already exist, better judgement would dictate that our farmers seek to ally themselves with these organizations rather than attempt to form separate and independent bodies. Only in communities where it is certain that a sufficient number of Negro farmers are active should purely Negro cooperatives ever be undertaken. Doubtless the existing organizations will be found to possess already marketing experience, business contact and other valuable assets that would have to be acquired by newly formed organizations. And nor is it doubted that even though the existing associations are manned by white farmers, that there will be found in most of them white men willing to be of all possible assistance to the colored members. As Mr. M. M. Lewey, of Jacksonville, Fla., who writes in another column in this paper on the Negro farmer and the cooperatives, says there can be found in hundreds of Southern communities white and colored farmers who are on the most cordial business relations and between whom exist a spirit of mutual helpfulness. It is this spirit existing not only between white and colored farmers in a large number of instances, but between whites and Negroes in various other fields that account in a very large measure for the progress of the race in the South in spite of the many drawbacks that beset it, and this progress often confuses those who fail to understand some of the very fine friendliness that exists between the races in this section.

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MUSTFORM MARKET BOARDS

Co-operatives Will Be Means To Benefit By New Laws

LOANS WILL BE MADE

Farm Relief Bill Before Congress Which Is In Session

Washington, D. C., April 17—Negro farmers will have to organize cooperative farm associations if they wish to obtain the direct benefits of new farm relief legislation which will be enacted during the extra session of Congress which began Monday.

According to the 1920 census, there are in the United States 949,889 colored farmers, including 16,680 Indians, 6,893 Japanese and 609 Chinese. Their failure to organize farm loan associations, it is pointed out, is the cause of their not reaping the benefits of the Federal farm loan act.

The new farm relief bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Charles L. McNary, Republican, of Oregon, chairman of the Senate committee on agriculture and forestry, provide for the establishment of a federal farm board and the creation of a revolving fund of at least $300,000,000.

Corporations To Be Created

In order to prevent undue fluctuations in price and bring about an orderly movement of farm products to markets, stabilization corporations will the created to which the board will be authorized to make loans out of the revolving fund at 4 per cent. up to 85 per cent. of the value of the crops to be purchased by the stabilization corporation.

The stabilization corporations are to be controlled by the agricultural cooperatives, subject to conditions to be prescribed by the Federal farm board. but losses or gains from the operations of the corporations are to be charged or credited to the revolving fund There is some discussion of the possibility of allowing the cooperatives to share to some extent the possible profits from such operations.

To Enjoy Credit Facilities

On the question as to what inducements would exist to persuade farmers to join the agricultural cooperatives, Senator McNary points out, that such cooperatives would enjoy advantageous credit facilities as compared with non-members. The cooperatives, like the stabilization corporations, will be able to borrow up to 85 per cent. he says, while at present it is necessary to pay 8 per cent and even at that rate loans cannot be negotiated for more than 60 per cent of the crop.

President Hoover's message to Congress covering generally his views on a farm relief program was sent to the House and Senate Tuesday.

Upon his return to Washington Wednesday of last week Representative John Q. Tilson, Republican, of Connecticut, majority leader in the House, stated there would be no change in the program of the House, which is to confine the extra session to farm relief, tariff revision and possibly census and reappointment legislation. He predicted adjournment by July 1.

SOUTHERN RURAL UPLIFT.

On Monday last President Hoover was visited by a strong delegation of southern representative men, led by Hugh MacRae, of Wilmington, N. C., and urged to give his support to legislation providing for organized rural settlements in the south.

The Constitution has frequently presented the plans for such settlements developed by Mr. MacRae, Howard Hilliard and other associates and cordially approved by Elwood Mead, the eminent director of the bureau of reclamation in the federal department of the interior.

Bills are pending in both congress chambers carrying an appropriation of $12,000,000 for rural planned developments in the southern states, one of them located near Albany, in southwest Georgia.

The delegation laid before the president fortified reports pointing out that the south has had little special help in meeting its peculiar agricultural problems and that southern rural life is "decaying." That last statement may seem incredible to many casual readers of it, but the fact is that while there were 310,000 active farms in Georgia in 1920 they had fallen to 249,000 in 1925 and a conservative estimate by informed persons in contact with agricultural conditions puts the number for this year as not greater than 220,000.

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There may be an economic gain in getting rid of ignorant, incompetent and thriftless farmers, but the great and desirable economic gain is to get and encourage a complement of educated, scientifically directed and productive. farmers. That is the splendid objective envisioned by Mr. MacRae and those co-operating with him to plant and promote demonstration farm communities in the south.

The plan proposed is to authorize the secretary of the interior to procure an area in each state in the south suitable for establishing thereon 200 farms of such size as will permit of successful farming; and the department shall provide plans for carrying out the settlement, development and supervsion of the work upon each unit. Loans for permanent improvements will be made to the settlers of approved farming qualifications.

The project is one of splendid possibilities, of great value to the states and the nation in the long run of its effects and it is much to be hoped that President Hoover, as President Coolidge did, will cordially approve and urge the great undertaking.

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Two appointments thus remain to be filled. The wheat growing industry has yet to be given representation and following his announced intention it is expected that the chief executive will select a man experienced in the field of finance and banking for the eighth appointment.

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Kansan Details Functioning of Supreme Group and Correlated Bodies to Effect Stabilizing.

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The key to the program outlined in the bill is cooperative marketing of farm products, including surpluses, by large enough units to stabilize the market and to dominate it within reasonable limits.

Means for Economic Equality.

The declaration of policy in the

Opening Up a National Program.

The cooperative marketing program in this measure will require organization by the farmers themselves in the merchandising field; the farmer's salvation. Government financial backing of this plan, backed, as I believe it will be, with every power the Federal Govern-

ment can throw into the effort, is to give agriculture its equal opportunity with other industries. But it is sound. It will work. It is provided to make that policy effective.

But as a fundamental measure, to which the comments undoubtedly will

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The key to the program outlined in the bill is cooperative marketing of farm products, including surpluses, by large enough units to stabilize the market and to dominate it within reasonable limits.

Means for Economic Equality.

The declaration of policy in the bill is constructive. The second is the mechanism to give agriculture its equal opportunity with other industries. The debenture idea is eliminated, later amendments undoubtedly will make it possible for the farmers themselves to place agriculture on an economic equality with the other industries of the country. The first is the declaration of policy. The second is the mechanism to make that policy effective.

Opening Up a National Program.

The cooperative marketing program in this measure will require a fundamental change in the merchandising field; provide crutches for the farmer; it recognizes the farmer's salvation. Government is not a perfect bill. It will not themselves to make it work miracles. It is not as strong in an economic equality with the other major industries of the country. The first is the declaration of policy. The second is the mechanism to make that policy effective.

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that the industry of agriculture will be placed on a basis of economic equality with other industries."

The measure proposes to establish this economic equality in four ways, specified in the following language:

1. By minimizing speculation.
2. By preventing inefficient and wasteful methods of distribution.
3. By encouraging the organization of producers into effective associations or corporations under their own control for greater unity of effort in marketing and by promoting the establishment and financing of a farm marketing system of producer-owned and producer-controlled cooperative associations and other agencies.
4. By aiding in preventing and controlling surpluses in any agricultural commodity, through orderly production and distribution so as to maintain advantageous domestic markets and prevent such surpluses from causing undue and excessive fluctuations or depressions in prices for the commodity.

Surplus Control Machinery.

Of great importance to wheat and cotton is the definition of a surplus, contained also in the declaration of policy.

"There shall be considered as a surplus, for the purpose of this act, any seasonal or year's total surplus produced in the United States and either local or national in extent, that is in excess of the requirements for the orderly distribution for the agricultural commodity or is in excess of the domestic requirements for such commodity."

To carry out the declaration of policy laid down, the act goes ahead and provides the mechanism. Agriculture is to be placed on a basis of economic equality—farming is to be made to pay so far as that is possible through government aid—by using the following agencies:

1. A Federal Farm Board, with broad supervisory and regulatory powers, but with no power to initiate action.
2. Advisory commodity committees, with no regulatory powers, but which must initiate the move to place the machinery in operation to extend government aid to the commodity.
3. Stabilization corporations to act as marketing agencies for cooperatives and as central sales agencies for the commodity.

Reliance Upon Farm Board.

The success of the entire program rests largely with the Federal Farm Board consisting of the Secretary of Agriculture and eight members appointed by the President.

I have great faith in the President. Mr. Hoover has shown a sympathetic interest in farm relief. The principal provisions of this act are in line with his ideas. I expect to see him give close attention to the program to be administered by men experienced in marketing who will constitute the board.

The advisory commodity committee for each commodity designated by the board as coming under the provisions of the act will consist of seven members named by the cooperatives handling that commodity, on invitation of the board. At least two of the seven shall be handlers or processors.

For instance, the cooperative wheat marketing associations, under rules prescribed by the board, will be asked to name an advisory committee. Five of these can be wheat growers, or members of cooperatives, at the will of the cooperatives naming the committee, but two of them must be processors or handlers, say, one miller and one grain dealer.

How the Various Bodies Will Work.

The declaration of policy, in the long run, is the heart of the bill, just as the Farm Board is the head, the cooperatives the backbone and the stabilization corporations the arms and legs, and the advisory committees the tongue of the mechanism created.

When the advisory commodity committee finds it necessary, to carry out the purposes of the act as defined in the declaration of policy, it will ask the board to recognize a stabilization corporation (the selling agency) which the cooperatives must incorporate. Membership in the stabilization corporation is limited to the cooperative marketing associations of that commodity.

The advisory committees also will advise with and cooperate with the Federal Farm Board in handling things generally.

There also is provision for clearing house associations in which all directly interested in the producing and marketing of a commodity may be represented. These clearing houses are really to talk things over and make suggestions and assist in solving problems that arise, although their purpose is not stated in just that language in the act.

There you have the general outline of the agricultural policy and the instruments which are to put it into effect.

Utilizing the Revolving Fund.

The revolving fund of $500,000,000 is placed at the disposal of the Farm Board. But except for its own administrative expenses, for which a separate fund is provided, the Federal Farm Board cannot spend any of this money.

The revolving fund is available for only one purpose—to be loaned. The board can lend money to the stabilization corporations. It can lend money to cooperative marketing associations.

Success or failure of the experiment in farm relief probably will hinge largely on whether or not the stabilization corporations function. The act checks it to the farm cooperatives to make the stabilization corporations operate sucessfully.

The Federal board will extend loans and advice and make rules and regulations for the stabilization corporations, but neither the board nor the government assumes any responsibility for their operations. They are not government instrumentalities. The government lends them money but does not take stock in them.

The stabilization corporations are to be owned and operated—under supervision — by the cooperatives. These will own the stock, name their own managers and run the business.

Financing Surplus Operations.

The Senate amendment making a clear distinction between ordinary marketing operations and surplus marketing operations was retained in the bill. It provides for two merchandising reserves being set up by stabilization corporations.

Loans from the government for financing surplus operations are a lien against the surplus reserves only; not against the merchandising reserves the corporation may accumulate through ordinary marketing transactions.

Hence, if the wheat corporation, for instance, handles a surplus crop at a loss, that loss falls on the revolving fund, not on the merchandising reserve of the corporation.

If the loss fell on the merchandising reserve, then the cooperatives holding stock in the stabilization corporation would have to take the loss—and one bad year might ruin them.

Method for Handling Wheat.

Briefly, here is the way the bill proposes to handle wheat, for example. The board will ask the wheat cooperatives to name an advisory committee of seven, under regulations to be made by the board. This committee will advise the organization by the cooperatives and recognition by the board of a wheat stabilization corporation.

This stabilization corporation will be a central sales agency for handling wheat. It can market for its members. It can buy wheat from members or non-members. It will borrow money—perhaps a $100,000,000 or so—from the revolving fund.

It can construct or lease elevators, sell or hold or otherwise dispose of wheat.

It is expected to announce its intention of buying a large amount of wheat. If that announcement does not bring the domestic market up to a reasonable figure, it will buy wheat. It can either market it at home or abroad. If it sells abroad at a loss, that loss will come back on the revolving fund.

The Federal Board will retain power to force the sale of the corporation's wheat on the domestic market if a corner that "unduly enhances the prices to the distress of the consumers" is attempted.

The act promises to help agriculture; promises to be of still more help as weak places may be discovered in the measure and corrected. It is a start in the right direction, but it must be borne in mind it also is an experiment that depends on cooperation to succeed.

FARM BOARD PLANS $19,000,000 LOANS

$10,000,000 to Market Cotton; $9,000,000 for Coast Vineyards

HAS FUND OF $500,000,000

Will Advance Cash to Co-operative Cotton Associations

From The World's Bureau

Special Despatch to The World

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19.—The Federal Farm Board has decided to make certain financial advances to cotton co-operatives to assist in marketing this year's crops and has arranged a loan of $9,000,000 to carry out its plan of stabilizing the California grape industry.

The first decision was reached after conferences with officials of the American Cotton Growers' Exchange. The grape loan —coming at the time that Prohibition Commissioner Doran is undertaking an investigation of diversion of California grapes into fermented channels—is the first important dip into the board's $500,000,000 fund, preceded only by a $300,000 loan to help Florida citrus fruit growers combat the Mediterranean fruit fly.

The grape loan, tentatively announced yesterday, was justified by the board in a statement to-day by "the greatly improved statistical position" of the grape industry and the fact that 90 per cent. of this country's grapes are produced in California.

"The effect of the secondary loan by the Federal Farm Board" the cotton announcement said, "will be to permit a co-operative association to make final settlement with the member grower when the latter desires to sell his cotton, without forcing that cotton onto the market at a time when buyers may already be oversupplied.

"From the Federal intermediate credit banks and the Federal Farm Board the association will receive advances equal to 90 per cent. of the fixed value. To this amount the cotton associations will add 10 per cent. from their own capital reserve, will pay in full the grower who is in distress and must have money and will, at the same time, be able to merchandise the cotton in an orderly fashion as the spinning mills of the world require it."

Referring to cotton co-operatives, the board announcement said that "these associations are now able to obtain loans from the Federal intermediate credit banks to the amount of 65 per cent. of the value of cotton.

"The Federal Farm Board proposes to lend an additional 25 per cent.—total of 90 per cent. for the two Government agencies—on cotton on which a definite value has been fixed by hedging in the future markets."

The total advances of this sort to be made by the board will be limited only by actual requirements of cotton marketing associations. It is expected this year's loans will run between $5,000,000 and $10,000,000.

Weld Sees Action Tribute to Cotton Exchanges

The announcement of the Federal Farm Board that it would lend betwen $5,000,000 and $10,000,000 to American cotton growers in secondary loans to the extent of 25 per cent. above the 65 per cent. loans already authorized by the Federal intermediate banks, all values being based on future hedging contracts on representative cotton exchanges, is a great testimonial to the efficiency of the various cotton exchanges, said Philip B. Weld, Acting President of the New York Cotton Exchange, yesterday.

This section by the Farm Board, Mr. Weld stated, will not only be of great help to the industry, but also constitutes a tribute to the exchanges.

"The cotton planter," Mr. Weld declared, "will now be able to borrow 90 per cent. on the value of his cotton, 65 per cent. through the Federal intermediate banks, and 25 per cent. on secondary loans from the Federal Farm Board, thus permitting the realization of 90 per cent. of the price at which cotton is selling in the futures markets."

COUNTY AGENTS EXPLAIN BOARD

Tells Farmers of Wha Federal Farm Body Plans To Do

BIRMINGHAM, Dec. 10.—(AP)—County agents in Alabama and other states can perform a great service to agriculture by carrying to the county school house meetings and the farm fireside the correct interpretation of what the federal farm board is seeking to do under the marketing act, C. B. Denman, member of the board said in an address before the annual meeting of the National Association of County Agents in Chicago.

"The agricultural marketing act," Mr. Denman said, "proposes to put the farmers in the same position enjoyed now by other industries which is to 'determine their profits by control of production and marketing of their products." Success of the farm board's program will depend upon the understanding the farmers have of the possibilities of the law and their willingness to help themselves to its benefits.

"When a commodity has been designated and a national marketing association set up to handle that commodity, when its management has been approved by the federal farm board and its financial position in the industry made secure and to the farmer dependably assuring then that association should attract the rank and file of farmers who produce that commodity wherever located. You can without reservation tell your farmers to put the marketing of their crop in whatever local unit that will have the sale of that crop made under the control of the national agency."

Agricultural Credits - 1929

FLORIDA PUBLICIST THINKS EFFORTS TO INDUCE NEGRO FARMERS TO JOIN WHITE CO-OPERATIVES IS SOUND

Journal and Guide

By M. M. Lewey

Jacksonville, Fla.,—John P. Tyler, Cario, Illinois discusses in a recent newspaper article the Federal Farm Board Measure. He says: "While all the discussion is going on about farm relief for the farmer, what about a little relief for the colored farmer? There are nearly a million of them in this land of ours—nearly 15 per cent of American farmers are of the colored race—most of them are southern cotton farmers, and if any farmers need relief these surely do."

Mr. Tyler expresses the keynote, so far as affecting the Negro farmers of the country. He very properly asks "What about a little relief for colored farmers?" 12-14-29

Sees Hope For Negro

I feel very hopeful of this relief through the exercise of the Negro's intelligence, will power and a determination to win, and he will win if his claim is characterzed by equity and righteousness. Louisville, Ky.

It is plain enough that few white men in the north, none in the south will fight for full citizenship rights for the Negro, then bring it to him on a silver platter. Freedom does not come that way. He who would be free must himself strike the firstblow.

Mr. Tyler returning from a brief tour of the south says: "The whites in some sections of Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia are trying to toll the Negroes in their co-ops. Most of the co-ops are controlled by landlords who own several thousands acres and have Negro tenants. They supply their Negro tennants with food, fertilizer and what they need white making the crop, charge 25 percent interest, and then rob them in weight and price of both cotton and seed. They will not give their Negro tenants itemized statements of what they have purchased and if a statement is requested the Negro who asks for it is termed impudent and is runout of the neighborhood.

"I cannot understand why Mr. Williams, the cotton member of the farm board is so anxious that Negroes join the white co-ops, when he knows full well that such conditions are prevalent throughout the cotton belt; when he knows that the Negroes have absolutely no confidence in the integrity of those who have been cheating them and lording it over them ever since the Civil war, and when he knows that this same element controls the cotton co-ops."

Thinks Publicity Harmful

There is nodoubt whatever, that Negro planters in sections of Alabama Mississippi and Georgia and other sections of the south have experienced just such conditions as observed by Mr. Tyler, during his travels over these states. But I am of the opinion however, that the least publicity given to the unfairness and injustice confronting Negro farmers by white planters in the past (and to some extent similar wrongs still prevail) would be more beneficial for race farmers, especially in the south. Out of years of observation, contact and business relations with white farmers in the south, especially in Florida, I know of my own personal knowledge, of white planters dealing honestly and justly under verbal and written contracts, with Negro share-croppers and farm tenants.

From an economic view point, and to avoid a possible alienation of apparent friendly business relations, existing between white and black farmers in some sections of the south, I am still of the opinion that complaints avail nothing for the betterment of race planters; when too, no tangible remedy is offered or in sight to justify complaints.

Mr. Tyler says "he cannot understand why Mr. Williams, cotton member of the Farm Board is so anxious for Negroes to join white co-operatives, ***when he knows that Negroes have absolutely no confidence in the integrity of those who have been cheating them***since the Civil war." I don't know to what extent Mr. Williams is urging Negroes to join white Agricultural co-operative associations.

It may be his efforts are to protect Negro farmers from runious conditions imposed upon our group under past and present white independent agricultural organizations. If this is the thought or purpose of Mr. Williams, when he sees too no effort being made by Negroes to organize under the provisions and rules of the Federal Farm board, then Williams' position has the right ring in it.

The Federal Farm Board

Mr. Hoover's appointment of the Federal Farm Board and confirmation by the United States Senate, there is not to be found in the enactment, one word or a scintilla of implication, that the law was created for the benefit of any particular race of people.

I accept the situation as I understand it, namely: If Mr. Williams is requesting Negro farmers to join white co-operative associations in communities or states where no efforts are made by Negroes to organize, then the scheme is most favorable for the benefit of Negroes, especially so when a sufficient number of Negroes in a state or community cannot be found to justtify an organization.

Like conditions will obtain, if white farmers few in number, seeking the benefits of Federal Legislation, the doors of a regularly organized co-operative Association of Negro farmers must open for white applicants.

Reliable information from Washington states that the Federal Farm Board has approved a loan not exceeding $6,000,000 to the staple cotton co-operative association, loan of $2,000,000 for the North Carolina Cotton Growers Co-operative Association, a loan of $5,000,000 to the Oklahoma Cotton Brokers Association, and a commodity loan of $500,000 made to the North Dakota-Montana Wheat Growers Association was increased to $2,000,000.

So far as any of these funds coming into the hands of Negro farmers, south or west, they must be members of a co-operative association.

Co-operative Association in Florida

Up to the present time I have not been advised of an organization of a state Co-operative Farmer's Association of our group in any state, except Florida.

Accredited representatives from twenty odd local Farmer's Agricultural Associations from various Counties in the State, assembled at Ocala, Marion County, Florida, October 9th and 10th and organied a Central Farmers' Co-operative Association.

At this meeting specialists from the Florida State Marketing Bureau ,white Mr. W. S. Hiatt and Mr. Lewist gave some valuable information on fruit and vegatable production, live stock and poultry industry.

Credit Corporation

Following the organiation of a Central Farmer's Co-operative Association and the election of its Board of Directors, the organization of an Agricultural Credit Corporation was immediately.. organized and an appropriate Board of Directors elected.

These two Corporations being affected as required by the Federal Intermediate Bank of Columbia. S. C Mr. H. L. Gardner, representing the Credit Bank of Columbia spoke at length emphasizing the fact that, those Corporations must be affected order to meet the requirements of the Federal Farm Board and the rules governing the Intermediate Credit Bank of this district.

Mr. Gardner also announced, that a minimum capital stock of $10,000 must be paid in, when this done, says he, notify me and I will be to glad to meet the Colored farmers of Florida, in their efforts to acquire such relief from the Federal Government as your needs may warrant."

Numbers of the Association are manifesting a spirit of determination to see the minimum capital stock is paid in.

Agricultural Credits— 1929

The Negro And Federal Farm Board

(By M. M. Lewery)
Jacksonville, Fla.

In a recent issue of the Chicago Defender, Mr. John P. Tylor, Cairo, Ill., discusses Federal Farm Board Measures. He says:

"While all the discussion is going on about relief for the farmer, what about a little relief for the colored farmer. There are nearly a million of them in this land of ours, nearly 15 per cent. of American farmers are of the colored race—most of them are southern cotton farmers,—and if any farmers need relief these surely do."

Mr. Tyler expresses the keynote, so far as affecting the Negro farmers of the country. Tyler very properly asks, "What about a little relief for colored farmers"?

I feel very hopeful of this relief through the exercise of Negro intelligence, will power and a determination to win, and will win if his claim is characterized by equity and righetousness. 11-28-29

It is plain enough, that few white men in the north, none in the south, will fight for full citizenship for the Negro, then bring it to him on a sliver platter. Freedom does not come that way. He who would be free must himself strike the first blow.

Mr Tyler returning from a brief tour of the south says "The whites in some sections of Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia are trying to toll the Negro into their coops. Most of those coops are controled by landlords who own several thousand acres and have Negro tenants. These landlords are lords indeed and think themselves the very lords of all the earth. They supply their Negro tenants with food, fertilizer and what they need while making the crop, charge them 25 per cent interest, and then rob them in weight and price of both cotton and seed. They will not give their Negro tenants with food, fertilizer of what they have purchased, and if a statement is requested, the Negro who asks for it, is termed impudent and is run out of the neighborhood.

I cannot understand why Mr. Williams, the cotton member of the farm board, is so anxious that Negroes join the white co-ops, when he knows full well that such conditions are prevalent throughout the cotton belt; when he knows that the Negroes have absolutely no confidence in the integrity of those who have been cheating them and lording it over them ever since the Civil war, and when he knows that this same element controls the cotton crops."

There is no doubt whatever, that Negro planters in sections of Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia and other sections of the south have experienced just such conditions as observed by Mr. Tyler, during his travels over these states. But I am of the opinion, however, that the least publicity given to the unfairness and unjustice confronting Negro farmers by white planters in the past (and to some extent similar wrongs still prevail) would be more beneficial for race farmers, especially in the south.

Our years of observation, contact and business relations with white farmers in the south, especially in Florida, I know of my own personal knowledge, of white planters dealing honestly and justly under verbal and written contracts, with Negro share croppers and farm tenants.

From an economic view point and to avoid a possible alienation of apparent friendly business relations, existing between white and black farmers in some sections of the south, I am still of the opinion that complaints avail nothing for the betterment of race planters; when, too, no tangible remedy is offered or in sight to justify complaints.

Mr. Tyler says: "he cannot understand why Mr. Williams, cotton member of the Farm Board is so anxious for Negroes to join white co-operates, when he knows that Negroes have absolutely no confidence in the integrity of those who have been cheating them ******* ever since the Civil war." I don't know to what extent Mr. Williams is urging Negroes to join white agricultural cooperative associations. It may be his efforts are to protect Negro farmers from ruinous conditions imposed upon our group under past or present white independent agricultural organizations. If this is the thought or purpose of Mr Williams, when he sees too no effort being made by Negroes to organize, under the provisions and rules of the Federal Farm Board, then Williams' position has the right ring in it.

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Like conditions will obtain, in white farmers, few in number seeking the benefits of Federal Legislation, the doors of a regularly organized cooperative association of Negro farmers, must open for white applicants. We cannot for the life of us, entertain the belief that the Federal Government would enact legislation discriminatory against American farmers, because of the complexity of skin or racial affinity.

Florida Farmers

From 1867 up to 1900 Negro farmers in Florida were mostly engaged in the production of cotton, corn, sweet potatoes and sugar cane, since that date prices in cotton tumbled downward, brokers and manufacturers had all to gain, farmers had all to lose. To be more specific, the farmers realized that to meet expenses in fertilizing crops and attendant costs in labor, sharecroppers, tenants and domestic cares, the farmer was forced to hold up in the more extended cultivation of cotton. To relieve this economic burden, the Federal Government comes to the relief of the farmer by the appointment of a Federal Farm Board.

Loans to Co-operatives

Reliable information from Washington, says. "The Federal Farm Board approved a loan not exceeding $6,000,000 to the staple cotton cooperative Association to supplement loans to that organization from other sources. The loan will enable the association to make advances to its member growers on the 16 cents a pound basis, and constituting a revision of a former loan of a small amount by the Board.

"The board also approved a loan not exceeding $2,500000 for the North Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Association at Raleigh N. C., to supplement all loans obtained from the federal intermediate credit bank at Columbia, S. C.

"The Oklahoma Cotton Brokers Association of Oklahoma City was loaned $5,000,000 to supplement advances from commercial banks. Of this amount the board advanced $493,000 on November 7th.

"A commodity loan of $500,000 made to the North Dakota-Montana Wheat Growers Association of Grand Forks, N. D., was increased to $2,500,000, the maximum of a commodity loan, to supplement loans from the intermediate credit bank at St. Paul."

So far as any amount of these loans coming into the hands of Negroe planters, south or west, he must be a member of a cooperative association or independently paddle his own boat.

Cooperative Association in Florida

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Accredited representatives from twenty odd local Farmers' Agricultural Associations from various counties in the state, assembled at Ocala, Marion county, October 9th and 10th and organized a General Farmers' Co-operative Association.

At this meeting specialists from the Florida State Marketing Bureau (white) Mr. W. S. Hiatt and Mr. Lewis, both of whom gave some valuable information on fruit and vegetable production, live stock and poultry industry were present.

Board of Directors Elected

The following Board of Directors was elected: J. E. Granberry, Jackson county; Robert Carter, Gadsden county; J. T. Riley, Leon county; S. L. Wilkinson, Madison county; S. H. Hendley, Alachua county; W. B. Bowles, Columbia county; W. E. Floyd, Marion county; K. S. Johnson, Seminole county; A. S. Scott, Volusia county; W. H. Howard, Broward county; S. D. Spady Palm Beach county; D. D. Call Dade county; Eddie Campbell, St. Johns county; Alican Ivey, Suwanee county; and E. J. Williams Wumter county; Eddie Campbell chairman.

Officers Elected

Florida Farmers' Cooperative Association: President, H. H. Williams; first vice president, W. H. Howard; second vice president, C. P. Brown; third vice president, J. W. Granberry; secretary, A. D. Turner; assistant secretary, G. C. Cook; treasurer and general Counsel, I. L. Purcell.

Credit Corporation

Following the organization of a Central Farmer's Cooperative Association and the election of its Board of Directors, the organization of an Agricultural Credit Corporation, was immediately organized and an appropriate Board of Directors elected.

These two corporations being affected as required by the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Columbia, S. C., Mr. H. L. Gardner, representing the Credit Bank of Columbia, spoke at length emphasizing the fact that, those Corporations must be affected in order to meet the requirements of the Federal Farm Board and the rules governing the Intermediate Credit Bank of this district. Mrs. Gardner also announced that a minimum capital stock of $10,000 must be paid in, when this is done, says he, notify me and I will be too glad to meet the colored farmers of Florida, in their efforts to acquire such relief from the Federal Government as your needs may warrant.

Numbers of the local associations are manifesting a spirit of determination to see that the minimum capital stock is paid in.

Florida Farm Census

The Florida Farm Census of 1925 taken by the Federal Government gives 12,012 Negro farmers operating in the state, this figure at this late may permit some correction either by increase or decrease; the report gives the numbr of white farmers, 47,205; the white farmers I use the term farmers, in a generic sense, are largely engaged in the production of citrus industry Our group do not operate citrus groves in proportion to other marketable commodities. First, because of the lack of capital required before any returns there from; second, because of the risks incurred by freezes, pests and other causes of which they have no control.

Citrus industry among Negro farmers in Florida, especially in the production of oranges, lemons and grapefruit, is only incidental by those who have come in possession of groves and kept up as a sideline to other farm activities, without special efforts to make a specialty of the business. But when it comes to production of cotton, corn and every variety of vegetable commodity, Negro farmers of the state, numbering 12,000 or more, it is not too much to say that they compare most favorably with any other state in the south.

These are among the reasons why Florida farmers have associated themseives into a Corporative Organization under the directions and rules provided by the Federal Farm Board and the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank in this district.

Briefly Stated

At the Ocala meeting the farmers exhibited no condition of mind nor assumed any attitude to hear abstract or visionary speeches, none was attempted.

Prof. J. R. E. Lee, president of Agricultural and Mechanical College at Tallahassee and Mr. I. L. Purcel general counsel for the farmers organization of the state, experienced and successful Negro lawyer of the south, addressed this meeting in manner and thought that would have been creditable before any similar body in the country, whether white or black.

NEW YORK WORLD

DEC 22 1929

NEGRO FARMERS TOLD TO ORGANIZE

Stone Says Farm Board Cannot Help Them Singly

DRAW COLOR LINE IN SOUTH

Whites Bar Entrance to Local Groups

By Lester A. Walton

The Federal Farm Board has reached what it considers a feasible method to secure for Negro farmers in the South the financial aid provided for in the Agricultural Marketing Act.

Chairman Legge and his conferees, after giving much study to the anomalous position in which Negro farmers in the Southland find themselves, have adopted a plan which contemplates the organization of separate units officered by members of the race, which are to affiliate with the State Farm Bureau of the respective commonwealths and co-operate with the local white units.

Inability to join State and county organizations having an exclusive white membership and enjoying no connection with any recognized agricultural group within the State, have operated in the past against the Negro farmer in the South benefiting from any of the previous farm relief measures fostered by the Federal Government.

Since the formation of the Federal Farm Board at Washington the Negro press in the North and South has been insistent that a helping hand be given the struggling Negro farmers in Dixie, whose importunities in the past for Federal loans have gone unheeded.

Details Worked Out

Dr. R. R. Moton, Principal of Tuskegee Institute, is credited with having been an influential factor in enlisting the sympathetic interest of President Hoover and members of the Farm Board in the plight of Negro farmers in the South. He called to Mr. Hoover's attention that under existing conditions there was little likelihood of the average Negro farmer, as well as many poor white farmers, profiting from the Farm Marketing Act unless definite and specific effort were made to organize Negro farmers for this purpose.

Chairman Legge invited Dr. Moton to come to Washington and give his views on the subject. At the conclusion of the conference the Farm Board decided to adopt some practicable program where the Negro farmer, denied membership in agricultural organizations, would be considered in the scheme of things.

In view of the far-reaching effect of the operations of the Federal Farm Board, and desirous that it become acquainted at first hand with the problems of Negro farmers who raise at least 40 per cent. of the agricultural products of the South, an invitation was extended Chairman Legge to attend the annual Negro Farmers' Conference, founded by Booker T. Washington, which was held this year early in December.

Chairman Legge was unable to be present, but the conference was addressed by James C. Stone, Vice Chairman of the board. He was listened to by nearly 1,500 farmers from nine Southern States.

Bound by Act

During Mr. Stone's stay at Tuskegee Institute further thought was given to the tentative understanding relative to giving financial relief to Negro farmers and many of the details worked out. This procedure was declared of invaluable assistance to the whole cause of agriculture in the South and to the Negro race in particular, of which at least 70 per cent. are yet to be found in the rural districts, notwithstanding the exodus of recent years to the cities.

Demonstration agents in the Southern States will be expected to co-operate actively in organizing Negro farmers into separate units.

Vice Chairman Stone's views on agriculture were expressed as follows

"The fundamental things that are involved in this agricultural condition cannot be cured with money. They must be cured by the desire on your part for a better system of merchandising your products.

"In the last eight years in the United States there has been $17,000,000,000 given to schools, churches, institutions and hospitals, and just $1,000,000 of that $17,000,000,000 was given for the benefit of agriculture. If you want to get the benefit of that money you must go to the city, and yet 85 per cent. of the people who gave that money originally came from the farm.

"The trouble that you farmers are up against is that when you take your produce to market for exchange, what you are delivering is worth about 65 cents on the dollar, and the products of the man in town are worth 100 cents on the dollar. We are trying to help you to market your products in such a way as to get 100 cents on each dollar's worth. This last bill is not an 'aid' bill, the word 'aid' does not even appear in it. It is an agricultural marketing act and it limits the activities of this board almost exclusively to dealing with co-operative marketing organizations—farm-owned and farm-controlled.

"We must confine our activities to the terms of the act. If you stay on your own farms and do not join co-operative organizations the Farm Board will not be able to help you, for we cannot deal directly with 6,000,000 farmers.

"Out of 7,000,000 or 8,000,000 bushels of wheat raised in this country, 40 to 45 per cent. is handled through co-operative organizations and every organization competes with every other organization. There is no unity of action. All enter the same market and compete against each other, and the man back on the farm is paying for it. When a salesman comes to sell you something he tells you what he has to sell and what you will have to pay for it, and you do not get it unless you pay that price; but the farmer has to go and ask: 'What will you give me for what I have raised?' This is what the farmer is up against.

"Fifty per cent. of the people who raise cotton do not know how to grade it. How do you expect to make money out of cotton when you do not even know what your cotton is worth? Of course, the man who buys it is going to buy as cheap as he can and sell for as much as he can. The thing for you to do is to put your business on the same basis as the man who buys from you. The whole problem is a question of trading power.

"Now what is the best way for colored people to take advantage of the Agricultural Marketing Act. You want **unit organizations run by you which** will affiliate with the ones already operating. You have men who can form these units in your schools and in agricultural extension work. Any member of the unit who wants information can go directly to his Chairman and ask him to get the information from the big organization.

"Do not try to develop your own selling machinery, but make use of the machinery already set up. Have your own officers, your own meetings, study your own problems, have your own contacts and go to the association and get all the information you want.

"The Farm Board cannot organize you. If you are satisfied with what you have you are going to keep it. If you are not, you must get together and sit down and figure out what you want and then try to get it. I am here to tell you that the Farm Board is just as much interested in the welfare of the colored farmer as it is in the white farmer. You are all farmers and we are going to do for you as much as we are for anybody else. You all look alike to us. But we cannot do anything unless you help yourselves and you cannot succeed in these co-operative organizations unless you believe in what you are trying to do.

"The Government of the United States stands ready to finance your business so you can give it the proper care, and it is trying to work out a system whereby every farmer will have access to money at a fair rate of interest. The Farm Board is going to do its part. We are asking you to do yours."

The thirty-ninth annual Tuskegee Negro Farmers' Conference in its address to Negro farmers advised them to organize and join the co-operative movements now being promoted throughout the country, and make an effort to get in touch with the Federal Farm Loan Bank to help finance farm operations.

"We believe in land ownership as a basis for self respect and the respect of our community and for racial advancement." the declarations set forth

Final Draft Of Huge Protective Cotton Body Up

$30,000,000 Corporation To Be Whipped Into Shape, Promise

Harmony Forecast

Agency Expected To Be Ready For 1930 Crop

By FRANK I. WELLER
(Associated Press Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The final draft of the charter and by-laws for the $30,000,000 cotton corporation—fourth of the Federal Farm Board's gigantic machines for cooperative marketing—was begun today at the board's headquarters.

FRANK I. WELLER

The subcommittee of the national organization committee started its work after a short conference with Carl Williams, the board member representing cotton. A week or ten days is expected to be required before the draft is completed.

S. L. Morley, of Oklahoma City, Okla., chairman of the subcommittee, said it would move cautiously to assure that no legal technicality was overlooked in the draft that is to be presented to the board for approval and subsequently submitted to the national organization committee in Memphis, Tenn.

"We feel sure," he said, "that our way is clear, that there will be complete harmony between the board and the cooperatives which are to become members of the corporation and that a national marketing agency for cotton will be set up and functioning in time to handle the 1930 crop."

Last Member Awaited

With the exception of N. C. Williamson, of New Orleans, who is expected to arrive Jan. 1, all members of the subcommittee were present. In addition to Morley they were Harry Williams, of Dallas, Texas; Allen Northington, of Montgomery, Ala.; U. B. Blalock, of Raleigh, N. C., and A. H. Stone, of Greenwood, Miss.

Although the subcommittee did not expect to meet with the board today unless called, the presence of Chairman Legge in the general conference room kept it ready with a preliminary statement of the views it expected to incorporate in the organization plan.

Frequent meetings will be held as the work proceeds, each group having expressed a desire to maintain harmony of policy at each step. Whatever draft the board and the subcommittee agrees on to be sent to the national organization committee representing cotton cooperatives in 14 states before steps are taken to incorporate.

Broadly, the cotton corporation is to follow the general principles of the national marketing agencies set up for grain, wool and mohair and livestock, Morley said.

Corporation Plans

It is to provide central marketing facilities and sales services, to buy cotton and cotton by-products, to develop a centralized finance system and to lend money to its stockholding members. Each operation entails numerous ramifications among which are the acquisition of physical facilities, the handling of cotton seed for planting purposes and the schooling of farmers to adjust production to prospective demand.

For purposes of representation in management and to indicate divisions between territory of any regional offices of the corporation, it has been proposed that the cotton belt be separated into four geographical divisions. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama would make up the southeast division; Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee, the Mississippi Valley division; Texa and Oklahoma, the southwest, and New Mexico, Arizona and California the far southwest division.

GRAIN TRADERS TRUSTED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Confidence that grain traders would refrain from going to extremes to defeat the purposes of the agricultural marketing act was expressed today by Chairman Legge of the Farm Board.

After addressing the annual session of the American Farm Economics Association, he expressed this opinion in response to questions by Edgar B. Brossard, member of the Tariff Commission. Legge had outlined the policies and programs of the board.

"The only thing we are worrying about," said Legge, "is the collective action of our own clients, the farmers. That is going to tell the story, not the question of the opposition of outsiders."

Brossard asked if the board had any plan for meeting competition of private grain dealers. Legge replied the cooperatives had to face that competition and could become equally efficient as they had control of the volume, providing they had "an equally efficient organization for the actual sales."

The California Citrus Growers Exchange was cited by the Farm Board chairman as an illustration of the collective concerted action which he said had raised that industry from a "deplorable" condition to "a fairly comfortable and happy basis."

Agricultural Credits - 1929.

FARM RELIEF

Herald Common-wealth

The late extra session of Congress, now in recess, passed a Farm Relief Bill setting up a Farm Relief Board comprising eight members which is to handle the $500,000,000 revolving fund carried in the measure to aid the farming industry.

75-6-29 Baltimore Md

President Hoover has selected so far five out of the eight members of the Farm Board with Alexander H Legge of Chicago as chairman. The others are Charles C Teague, California, President of the California Fruit Growers Association; James C. Stone, head of the Burley Tobacco Growers; C. B. Denman, Missouri, President National Live Stock Association; and Carl Williams, organizer o fthe Oklahoma Cotton Growers Association.

These men are eminent in business and in their knowledge of the line of farming to which they are accredited.

The Chairman, Alexander H. Legge at the insistence of President Hoover and obedient to a call of duty gives up a $100,000 a year job as President of the International Harvester Company to accept a $12,000 government position in which to attempt to serve the industry upon which rest the prosperity and power of the entire country.

President Hoover has devoted his energies and best thought to securing the strongest and most thoroughly practical and capable men to form the Farm Board.

No governmental agency was ever formed with greater painstaking care and greater singleness of purpose in the fulfilment of duty.

The intention and purpose of the creation of the Farm Board and the placing in its hand $500,000,000 is to endeavor to maintain price levels of farm products above cost of production through control of surplus crops.

Cotton farmers for many years have been aided hrough the warehouse system existent in all parts of the cotton raising South.

Farmers who take their cotton to market and find the price unsatisfactory can place their cotton in the warehouse. A certificate is issued for the cotton upon which money an be borrowed from any bank. A small storage fee is charged in addition to a small insurance premium.

This system in operation for a number of years in the cotton sections of the South has been greatly helpful to cotton farmers, although by no means a panacea for all their ills.

It helped during many years of overproduction to keep off the market a part if not all of the surplus overproduced thus keeping up price levels and saving thousands of farmers from ruin.

We believe that the Farm Board operating in a similar way by removing the surplus or the very knowledge that the Board is ready and has the means with which to remove a crop surplus from the market will maintain the price of that product enabling the farmer to sell at a living price above the cost of production.

Unlike the cotton warehouse system this service is to be given the farmer without cost to him.

In some quarters Negro prophets decry the Farm Relief Bill and declare that it will not benefit the Negro farmer. Some contend that a Negro should be appointed on the Farm Board. Anything that will help the farming industry will help Negro farmers. There can be no objection, at least by Negroes, to a Negro member on the Farm Board but a Negro should not be appointed just because he is a Negro. If there is an outstanding Negro identified with and thoroughly understanding the farming interests and having had practical and successful experience and a man of the calibre and standing of the men already designated by the President, his appointment would be gratifying.

We believe, however, that President Hoover should be left free from clamor and agitation to make his own choices for the Board.

Every selection so far made is for the best interests of the farming industry and the others will be likewise.

The colored farmers, who obtained a loan from the U. S. Government in the Spring to purchase seed, fertilizer and feed to aid them in making a crop, must remember that they gave a first lieu of their crops to the Government. The loan must be paid first of all. To dispose of the crop without first making a settlement will subject the farmer to prosecution in the Federal Court for disposing of crop under lieu. Better not flirt with the Atlanta prison.

Palmetto Leader 10-5-29 Columbia S.C.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
Thursday, October 17, 1929

Negro Farm Organization Holds Meet

Formation of Credit Corporation Authorized to Secure Federal Loans.

Special to Times-Union

OCALA, Oct. 16.—What might be regarded as a forward move toward farm relief for negro farmers was made here when near one hundred delegates represented twenty farmers' co-operative associations from fifteen counties successfully closed the first annual meeting of the Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association, held at the African Methodist Episcopal church here.

Unlike the customary farmers' meetings when reports are made on "how much had been produced" during the year and "whose farming record stood above the other," the program carried out provided only for such discussions and business transactions as would characterize the "new day" farmers' meeting such as organizing for rural credits, co-operative marketing and education in co-operative organization of farmers."

The question of borrowing money from the government through the federal intermediate credit bank of this district was explained in detail by H. L. Gardner, respresenting the federal intermediate credit bank of Columbia, S. C. His two hours' address (including questioning) led to the organization of an agricultural credit corporation which he said, "was necessary to qualify with his institution with a minimum capital stock of $10,000, all of which must be paid in."

Immediately following his address the "Florida Farmers' Credit Corporation" was organized, authorizing the required stock and a board of directors and officers for the ensuing year were appointed. The board of directors and officers for the "Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association" for the ensuing year were also appointed. Headquarters for both institutions will be at Ocala.

Marketing experts from the Florida State Marketing Bureau included W. S. Hiatt on fruit and vegetable and Mr. Lewis on live stock and poultry. They gave some valuable information along their lines and the problem of marketing in the counties represented will be solved in many ways through the local marketing associations established.

The good attendance of the delegation on this occasion was due to the co-operation of the various schools, colleges, extension and Smith-Hughes agents, professional and business men over the state.

The farm and home demonstration agents under the direction of A. A. Turner of the A. & M. college, Tallahassee associated with Attorney I. L. Purcell of Jacksonville, H. H. Williams, Hastings and S. H. Hendley of Gainesville are directly responsible for the progress of the co-operative organization of negro farmers in Florida. The services of W. H. Howard, grower and vegetable packer of Deerfield, have been secured and will mean much along marketing lines.

Centralization of the local associations under one overhead supervision in keeping with the request of the federal farm board is regarded the most outstanding accomplishment during the meeting. Steps were taken through the executive committee to work out plans for systematic training officials of local associations in their various duties as provided for in the charter and by-laws of the marketing association. The following counties were enrolled: Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Volusia, St Johns, Marion, Columbia, Suwannee Madison, Leon, Gadsden, Jackson, Alachua, Sumter, Seminole.

Farm Board Worker Invited to Savannah

SAVANNAH, Ga., Sept. 29. (AP)—The Savannah board of trade has invited James C. Stone of the federal farm board to address its co-operative meeting arranged for October 28 here.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
UNITED STATES DAILY

DEC 5 1929

Equality Is Promised To Negroes in Making Agricultural Loans

Member of Farm Board Urges Colored Educators To Support Cooperative Marketing Program

Negro farmers are to be treated on an equality with all other agriculturists in the administration by the Federal Farm Board of the Agricultural Marketing act, James C. Stone, member of the Board, told the Negro Farmers Conference at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama on Dec. 4.

Mr. Stone said that negro educators may render valuable service to farmer members of their race by supporting the Board's cooperative marketing program and urging negro farmers to join local associations affiliated with national sales agencies having the endorsement of the Board.

A review of Mr. Stone's address prepared by the Federal Farm Board follows in full text:

That all farmers are to be treated exactly alike by the Federal Farm Board in the administration of the agricultural marketing act, which provides Federal assistance to agriculture through growers' cooperative associations, was the message delivered to Negro farmers of the South Dec. 4 by James C. Stone, vice chairman, Federal Farm Board. Mr. Stone represented the Board at the annual Negro farmers' conference held at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, under the auspices of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, which was found by Booker T. Washington. Dr. Rob R. Moton, principal of the institute.

INCREASE IN FARM MORTGAGE DEBTS

Daniel L. Wickens is the farm finance specialist of the Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics. He places the national farm mortgage debt at $9,468,000,000 on Jan. 1 1928. Figures for 1929 are not available. Now the Wickens figures for 1928 as compared to $9,360,000,000 on the corresponding date in 1925 shows an increase of $108,000,000 in the farm mortgage debt in three years.

Also the situation becomes more significant by comparing the 1928 figures with the total of $7,857,000,000 indebtedness Jan. 1, 1920. Farm mortgage indebtedness in the United States is regarded in various degrees as a barometer of agricultural prosperity. Also prosperity declined to the extent of $108,000,000 from 1925 to 1928. Greatest relative decline occurred in the Mountain States, with the Middle Atlantic, the West North Central and the New England groups showing small reductions.

There are 16 insurgent Republican Senators. They are voting with the Democrats to give relief in the tariff schedules to the farmers of America. There appears to be a reason for their insurgency. They represent agricultural commonwealths. They know that the ballot is the thing and they are fearful that in the elections to come a year or two years hence the farmers of the West may turn their ballot against the candidates of the Republican party.

Pres. Hoover has many problems to solve; he has a thorny road to travel; he inherited many handicaps from his immediate predecessors.

chairman of a delegation that Washington in October to extend a special invitation to the Board to attend this conference.

In addressing the conference Mr. Stone emphasized that the law creating the Farm Board is a marketing act and that the Board's main task is to help the farmer help himself in marketing his products. To put the farmer in position to do this job for himself the Board is assisting in the creation of national and regional commodity sales organizations, owned and controlled by producers. local, State and regional cooperatives handling the various commodities have been called together to form these national cooperative commodity sales associations.

Mr. Stone advised the Negro farmer to join the cotton, tobacco or other commodity association in his neighborhood handling the particular product he grows. The vice chairman of the Board explained that these commodity associations are purely economic in character and perform no function other than marketing. The cooperation of Negro educators in getting the Farm Board's program before the Negro farmers of the South was invited by Mr. Stone. These educators, he said, can render valuable service to the farmer members of their race by supporting the Board's cooperative marketing program and urging Negro farmers to join local associations that are members of national sales agencies which have the endorsement of the Board.

FARM BOARD PLANS EDUCATION DRIVE

Enlists Land Grant Colleges in Cooperative Marketing Movement.

EXTENSION FORCES TO HELP

Program to Be Worked Out at a Meeting to Be Held In Chicago on Nov. 12-14.

Initial steps have been taken to correlate the work of the Federal Farm Board, Federal and State extension Organization and Policy of eges and universities in a national movement in agricultural cooperative marketing. Full support of these agencies was pledged at a meeting recently held in the board's offices n Washington, it announces.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Committee of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, the Committee on Extension Oragnization and Policy of he association, and Federal extension workers. It was preliminary to he annual conference of the land grant institutions which is to be held at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Nov. 12 to 14 inclusive. Several members of the Federal Farm Board will attend the Chicago meeting, where an effort will be made to develop an effective educational plan that will familiarize farmers and their marketing agency officials with the commodity marketing system that is to be put into operation.

To avoid duplication of existing machinery the board officials pointed out at the recent meeting that they were seeking the support of the Federal Department of Agriculture, the forty-nine agricultural colleges, including the one in the Hawaiian Islands, and the 5,700 extension agents in carrying the new program of selling farm products into the farming areas of America.

Full Help Pledged.

The fullest cooperation of the colleges and the universities was pledged by Dr. Anson Marston, dean of engineering, Iowa State College and President of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, and Dr. R. A. Pearson, President of the University of Maryland and chairman of the association's executive committee.

Dr. Pearson said that the colleges and universities could support the educational movement in three ways: First, by training men in the colleges of agriculture in sound cooperative marketing leadership. Second, through the college extension army of county agents the proper information can be carried to the farmers to aid them in organizing new associations and improving old ones so that their program of marketing will fit into the national commodity selling plan. Third, by using experiment station experts to make studies in marketing as has been done in the field of production.

Dr. C. W. Warburton, director of extension work of the Federal Department of Agriculture, believes that the extension forces will be the biggest factor in putting into effect the educational program. He pointed out at the meeting that the State extension division needed additional specialists in marketing to strengthen the hands of county extension agents by grounding them in principles and practices of cooperative marketing.

A. J. Meyer, State Director of Extion, Missouri College of Agriculture, and chairman of the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy, emphasized the need of getting competing cooperatives together. With the proper encouragement county agents may help eliminate this competition, Mr. Meyer believes.

Sees a Policy Needed.

Dean Frederick B. Mumford of the Missouri College of Agriculture, said that one of the greatest needs of the colleges is a national agricultural policy to guide them in their efforts to aid farmers through cooperative marketing. If this national agricultural policy were established the problem would be tremendously simplified. When the colleges are united on the program of instruction in cooperative marketing the farmers will get behind it, he said. The competition among farmers themselves often prevents the colleges from getting behind cooperatives, according to Dean Mumford.

The college and extension men were told of the Federal Farm Board's efforts in beginning the development of a national cooperative marketing policy.

College executives who attended the Federal Farm Board's meeting Monday were: Dr. R. A. Pearson president, University of Maryland Dr. Anson Marston, dean of engineering, Iowa State College, and president, Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities; Dr. C. A. Lory, president, Colorado Agricultural College; Dean J. L. Hills, University of Vermont; Dean F. B. Mumford, Missouri College of Agriculture; Dr. C. A. McCue, dean of agriculture and director of extension University of Delaware.

Below are the members of the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy who attended the meeting: A. J. Meyer, Missouri chairman; M. S. McDowell, Pennsylvania; I. O. Shaub, North Carolina L. N. Duncan, Alabama; A. E Bowman, Wyoming; T. B. Symons Maryland; J. R. Hutcheson, Virginia.

Jeffersontown, Ky. Jeffersonian
Thursday, December 12, 1929

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